WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1885,

GATHERED UP IN GOTHAM.

New York, Dec. 5, 2 a. M .- The follow-

ing will appear in the New York Tribune to-day upon "Secretary Whitney's Report;"

THE METROPOLITAN BASE BALL CLUB.

MAYOR GRACE BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

VIEGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The State Debt-Aid for Ex-Confederates. RICHMOND, Dec. 4.-In the Virginia ser

ate to-day the joint resolution to appoint a special committee to consider all questions

relating to the state debt was defeated,

Poisoned Soup.

MONTHEAL, Dec. 4.—On Wednesday even

ng Ewan McLennan, a leading member of

the Metropolitan Club, entertained some

contained a sufficient quantity of arsenic to poison the whole party. Detectives have the matter in hand. Two servants who

Boycotting Riel's Friends.

Convicts Break Jail.

Great Guns Can Be Made Here.

The special ordnance committee of the House will report that heavy guns of the

greatest power can be made in this coun-

try. The use of the natural gas in Penn-

sylvania for heating purposes in working the iron and steel will be a great factor in

MONTREAL, Dec. 4 .- The city corporation

The house had adopted the resolution.

was abolished.

next season.

GEN. LOGAN SELECTED.

HIS PATRIOTIC DECLINATION OF THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

The Republican Majority in the Senate Inderse the Action of the Chicago Convention - The Caucus Adjourns Without Choosing a Successor to Lo-

The cancus of Republican senators met promptly at noon yesterday, Senator Sher-man in the chair, and proceeded at once to consider the question of the election of a president pro tempore of the Secate, made necessary by the death of the Vice President of the United States. Senator Edmunds stated that when, last summer, the Repub-Heans of the nation in their convention sinated Gen. Logan for Vice President he (Mr. Edmunds) had thought it right ward Gen. Logan and toward the party that he should retire from the presidency of the Senate, and that Gen. Logan should be chosen in his place, and, as they all re-membered, he had communicated that opinmembered, he had communicated that opinion and desire to the Republican senator in a formal way, but it was thought at that time that the change is not made, especially as Gen. Logan did not wish it to be made. At the presidential election last fall Gen. Logan had received, he believed, the votes of all the Republicans who had the opportunity to vote, and came very near being the choice of the people for the office of Vice President, which would have made him ex-officio the president of the Senate, and under the law charged with the duty of carrying on the government in case of any disability of the President of the United States until an election could be had. In this state of things he thought it right that the Republican senators should renew that expression of confidence in Gen. Logan by nominating him for president of the Senate, and he accordingly moved that Gen. Logan be so nominated by acclamation.

Gen. Logan be so nominated by acclamation.

Several senators spoke briefly in favor of the comination, and the question was taken and agreed to manimously.

The chairman announced the unanimous nomination of John A. Logan as the Republican candidate for president pro tempore of the Senate. Gen. Logan arose and said: "Mr. Chairman: From the depths of my heart I thank the Republican senators for the confidence they repose in me, as expressed by the nomination just tendered me by acclamation for the position of temporary presiding officer of the Senate. I not alone thank them but the people of the whole country for the desire they seem to feel that I should be given this very honorable position."

feel that I should be given this very honorable position."

"I was, however, sir, the nominee of the Republican party for vice President and voted for at the last election. I was not elected. For that nomination I then thanked the Republican party, and through the senators present I again return to the Republicans of the country my most profound thanks.

"If I thought that I could better serve my constituents and my country by accept-

"If I thought that I could better serve my constituents and my country by accepting this position, I would most unhesitatingly do so, and perform the duties to the test of my ability. I do not so think, and am sure that I can, by work necessary to be performed in committees and otherwise, do more that may be useful by remaining in my present position.

"In fact, Mr. Chairman, the position is not to my taste, and unless I thought I could preform the duties in a more satisfactory manner than other senators—which I do not—I cannot see a necessity for me to occupy the chair in preference to any of my trother senators. The Senate has at all times been presided over in a most satisfactory manner since I have had the honor to be one of its members, and doubtless will be so again by any one who may be selected. I am ready to assist in elevating any one who may be selected. I am ready to assist in elevating any one who may be chosen. Now, my brother senators, I wish you to know that I fully appreciate your kindness and the great compliment paid me; but you must allow me to say that, after carefully considering the matter, I feel that I ought to decline the homination, and, therefore, most respectfully do so."

After some remarks made by several senators in deprecation of the declination of

most respectfully do so."

After some remarks made by several sen-ators in deprecation of the declination of Gen. Logan, he said that he had arrived at the conclusion expressed by him after full deliberation and wished it considered

as final.

On motion, the injunction of secrecy was removed from the proceedings, and the caucus adjourned until 12 o'clock to-day.

Senator Logan's action in declining the caucus nomination for the Vice Presidency

caucus nomination for the Vice Presidency was the general theme of comment last night, and many were the complimentary expressions regarding it. Not a few regretted that the senator had declined, and there was little doubt expressed that, had he accepted, he would have been elected. At the caucus to-day Senator Sherman will be nominated for the position, and it is said will accept.

Senator Edmunds, of Vermont, does not want the position, and the nominate will be Senator Sherman. The Democratic members will probably nominate Senator Harris, of Tennessee. Senator Allison, who has been named as a possible president protempore of the Senate, authorizes the statement that he is not a candidate for the place, and should decline it if tendered him, believing that he could not discharge the duties of the position without resigning the chalrmanship of the committee on appropriations, which he prefers to retain.

A Sensational Court Scene. ago Newton Chance, an aged itinerant preacher from the Indian territory, was arrested here, charged with the murder of E. Junius Foater in this city in 1863. Foater was editor of a newspaper. The killing occurred during the rebellion, and caused intense excitement throughout this state. The trial of Chance has been in progress during the past few days. A sensation was produced in court by the voluntary testimony of James Young, who swore that it was he who killed Foater. "I killed him," said Young, "because he published in his paper the lying assertion that the murder of my father was the best thing that eyer happened for northern Texas." The state attorney, to rebut this confession, produced an old affidavit signed by James Young, wherein he swore he was 100 yards from the spot when Foster was shot and did not know who fired the fatal bullet. The jury last night rendered a verdict of "not guilty." and the aged prisoner Chance was released in the midst of demonstrations of great joy. The old preacher wept like a child as the people crowded around him. He stood trial for his life twenty-two years after the orime with which he was charged was committed. which he was charged was committed,

No Railway For Fifth Avenue. ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 4.-In Attorney General O'Brien's opinion, in the matter of an application for an injunction to restrain preparation for laying hoise car tracks on Fifth avenue, New York, it is held that the act of 1885 is constitutional and probhits the Fifth avenue or any other railroad company from constructing a rail-road on that avenue so long as it remeins

New York, Dec. 4 .- The police to-day found five cases of smallpox on the west side of the city and took all the sick to the hospital, and fumigated the houses.

MONTHEAT, Dec. 4.—Six new cases of smallpox were reported bere yesterday, of which three have been verified.

Entertaining a Big Audience. SAGUACHE, CAL., Dec. 4.—Marshall Clements was hanged here to-day for the murder of his brother and sister-in-law which occurred last month. One thousand people witnessed the execution.

Death of a Prominent Inventor. ton, the inventor of the Ithaca calendar clock and autophone, died suddenly last evening from neuralizis of the heart. De-ceased was 66 years of age. MR. TILDEN'S MESSAGE.

The Sage of Greystone Counsels In-

creased Appropriations for Coast De-NEW YORK, Dec. 4-Hou. Samuel J. Tilden has sent the following letter to Hon.

den has sent the following letter to Hon. John G. Carlisle:
Genyatose, Yorkers, N. Y., Dec. I, 1855—
Dear Mr. Carlisle: As public option points to you as the speaker of the next flouse of Representatives, I desire to submit a proposition as to one of the public objects for which an apprepriation ought to be prompt and liberal. In comidering the state and management of the public revenues the authorst involves the questions whether we shall exitinguish the surplus by reducing revenue, or whether we shall apply the surplus to payments on the public debt, or whether we shall exitinguish the surplus by reducing revenue, or whether we shall apply the surplus to payments on the public debt, or whether we shall seize the occasion to provide for our seacoast defenses which have been long neglected. I am of the opinion that the latter is a paramoint necessity, which ought to precede the reduction of the revenue, and ought also to precede an excessive rapidity in the payment of the public debt.

The property exposed to destruction in the twolve scaports, Portland, Portsmonth, B. stun, Newyort, New York, Philadelphia, Battlewson, and San Francisco, cannot be less invalue than five thousand millions of dollars. To this must be added a vast amount be property dependent for its use on these scaports. Not does this statement afford a true measure of the damage which night be caused to the property and business of the country by a failure to protect these scaports from hostic navalulatarks.

They are the centers, not only of foreign

tre to protect these scaports from hostile naval attacks.

They are the centers, not only of foreign commerce, but of most of the internal trade and exchanges of domestic productions. To this state of things the machinary of transportation of the whole country has become adapted. The interruption of the currents of traffic by the occupation of one or more of our principle sea ports by a foreign enemy, or the destruction of them by bombardment, or the holding over them the menace of destruction for the purpose of exacting contribution or ransom, would inflict upon the property and business of the country an injury which can neither be foreseen nor measured. The claborate and costly fortifications, which were constructed with the greatest engineering skill, are now practically uncless. They are not capable of resisting the attacks of modern attillers.

A still greater defect exists in our coast de-fenses. The range of the best undern artillery has become so extended that our present forti-fications designed to protect the harbor of New York, where two-thirds of the import trade and more than one-hall of the who'e export trade of the United States is carried on, are too near to the great populations of New York city, Jersey Chy, and Brooklyn to be of any value as a protection.

more than one-halt of the whole export trade of the United States is carried on, are too near to the areast populations of New York city, Jeney City, and Brooklyn to be of any value as protection.

To provide effectual defenses would be the work of years. It would take much time to construct permanent fortifications. A small provision of the best modern guns would take several years. Neither of these works can be actem of size in provision of the best modern guns would take several years. Neither of these works can be actem of size in present state of preparation, on the heights surrounding the harbor of New York, in our present state of preparation, or ather in our total want of preparation, would be powerless to resist a small squadron of war steamers.

This sinte of things is discreditable to our crosight and to our pradence. The best guarantee against segre son, the best assurance that our diplomacy will be successful and pacific, and that our rights and honor will be represented by other mations; is in their knowledge that we are in a situation to vindicate our regulation and interests. While we may afford to be defected in the present of the sea of the control of the fact that we have neglected the ordinary precautions of defense invites want of consideration in our diplomacy, in justice, are arregance and insuit at the hands of foreign nations. It is no more than sixty years since we announced to the world that we should resist any attempts, from whatever quarter they might come, to make any new colonization on any part of the American content; that while we should respect the status que, we should protect the people of the different nations inhabiting this continent from every attempt to subject them to the domination of any furners of self-government, This announcement was formulated by John Quiney Adams. Our government has firmly adhered to recommend any attempt to rival the great European power of the defermine of the first so different nations inhabiting this continent in which have regulated to the

emain, very truly yours, Hon, J. G. Carlisle.

t careful attention.'

MR. CARLISLE'S OPINION.

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Speaker Carlisle, when asked for an expression of opinion regarding Mr. Titiden's letter, said; "I have not yet received it, although it may be now with my mail at the capitol. Any suggestions made by Mr. Tilden concerning public matters are entitled to most respectful consideration, and when his letter is received I shall give it careful attention."

Diamond Matches.

HARTFORD, CONS., Dec. 4,-The United

States court was occupied to-day with the

suit of the United States vs. the Diamond

Match Company. The company had given

a bond to secure the government against loss in keeping a three mouth's supply of

stamps on kand. The tax being taken off,

stamps on kand. The tax being taken off, the rale of matches declined in expectation of lower prices, and \$3,000,000 of the stamps were left unused. They were destroyed by the government, which then claimed that the cest of the printing and paper should be paid by the company. The defense set out to show that if the stamps had been definitely ordered and then returned there would have been no such charge, and that there should, on the same principle, be none under the present circumstances.

The Barbour-Daniel Contest. RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 4.—It is claimed here that Daniel has the fuelde track for the

senatorship, but Barbour's friends hope to make some changes before Monday night,

when the nomination will be made. It is possible that Barbour and Daniel may de-feat one another, and that a "dark horses" may come in, but this is not probable, Daniel is ahead so far.

The Whig to Be Made Democratic.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 4 .- It is reported

o-night that the Whig will be bought by

Democrats and run as a strict party organ. It is said that Gen. Mahone will establish a

paper in Petersburg.

important proportion of the original cost of construction. In constructing nermanent fortileations and in providing an ample supply of the best modern artiliery, the annual cost of maintenance is inconsiderable. Nearly the whole expenditure is in the original outlay for construction. If we do not make the expenditure necessary to provide for our seacoast defenses when we have a surplus, and have no need to levy new taxes, we certainly will not make those expenditures when we have no longer a surplus in the treasury. To leave our vast interests defenseless in order to reduce the cost of whisky to its consumers would be a solecism. The present time is great national necessity too long neglected. Not only does the surplus in the treasury supply ample means to meet this great public want without laying new burdens upon the people, but the work can now be done at a much lower cost than has ever before been possible. The defensive works would consist aimost entirely of steel and fron. These materials can now be had at an unprecedented low price. A vast supply of mechinery and of labor celled into existence by a great vicissitude in the steel and iron indistrics offers itself to our service. We should have the satisfaction of knowing that while we are availing ourselves of the supplies which would primarily be unattainable we were setting in motion important industries and giving employment to labor in a period of depression. With encouragement by the government itself furnishing the leave, the inventive genius of our people would be applied to the creation of new means and improved machinery, and establishments would apping into existence capable of supplying all of the national wants and rendering us completely independent of national defense. I endeavored to impress these ideas upon Mr. Randall he last time I had the pelasure of seeing him. With my highest regards to Mrs. Carlinia and yourself, I remain, very truly yours,

MR. Carlinia.*

CONTRACTS VS. OPEN PURCHASES.

by the books of the department. In some cases it is largely in excess, in others there is a deficiency."

"My experience," he says, "of the manner in which important decisions are necessarily made by the Secretary, without opportunity for proper deliberation and incilligent advice, leads me to say without hestiation that the follies of the department are largely attributable to this." He says the rebuilding of the Omaha at an expense of \$572,000 was an act of the greatest folly, but adds that the responsibility is divided, and that the amount spent on the Omaha surprised no one more than the bureau officers.

THE SYSTEM WHOLLY TO BLAME.

"The Proposed Reorganization indicated herein begins with the Secretary (who occupies a position at the confluence of all the powers confided to the department) and aupports him with some aids or advisers in such number, and of such character as shell seem judicious (snassistant secretary of the navy would seem to be an essential feature). Then places one person at the head of each of the the three natural divisions of the functions of the department, which may be stated to be finance, construction, and personnel; then subdivides the business of each division seconding to the subject mateach division according to the subject mat ter with which each deals. Thus the divi for with which each deals. Thus the divi-sion of material and construction would necessarily have a subdivision, or bureau for engineering, one of construction, one for equipment, and one for ordnance."

The present departmental force is more than adequate to the needs if rearranged and systematized.

Pirst Cremation on Long Island. HUNTER'S POINT, N. Y., Dec. 4.—The body of Eugene Lievre, of Hoboken, was incinerated at the Mount Olivet Crematory this afternoon, in the presence of his rela-tives and a few friends. This is the first cremation which has taken place here. cremation which has taken place here.

Gen. Sha ler Indicted. NEW YORK, Dec. 4 .- The grand jury today presented an indictment for bribery against Gen. Shaler.

THE NAVY OF THE FUTURE

SECRETARY WHITNEY'S SCHEME FOR REFORM IN HIS DEPARTMENT.

A Violent Attack Upon Existing Methods for the Transaction of Naval Business-An Assistant Secretary and Bureau Consolidation.

In his annual report the Secretary of the Navy recommends that Decoration day be included among the holidays for which all per diem employes of the government shall be paid.

The appropriations available for the present fiscal year are \$13,500,704.05. The amount drawn by warrant from the treasury from July 1, 1885, to Nov. 1, 1885, deducting that refunded, is \$4,285,764.30, being \$97,480.54 less than the net amount drawn during the same period of last year.

The estimates for the navy for next year amount to \$35,104,625,15, in which sum are embraced estimates for new objects, not those ordinarily for the service, amounting to \$16,059,350,34, leaving for the customary purposes of the service \$19,034,744.91. They embrace for increase of the may \$10,503,770; for the completion and armament of the double-turreted monitors, \$4,205,656, and for public works and improvements at the yards and stations, \$4,208,637.41.

In referring to the recent Panama trouble, the Secretary says the officers and men "discharged their duty in a highly satisfactory manner." He adds:

"It is largely for the purpose of protecting the mercantile marine and for assisting its healthy development that the navy exists, and there are reasons for believing that its services on the isthmus during the months of April and May last will have important and far-reaching consequences in this direction." mount to \$35,104,695.15, in which sum are

THE PROPOSED CRUISERS.

THE PROPOSED CRUISERS.

He says that within the next thirty days it is believed that the plans for two additional cruisers and two gunboats provided for by Congress at its last session will be sufficiently advanced as to justify the commencement of the advertisements, and he calls attention to the fact that the ships are likely to be finished at a period long prior to the probable completion of their armament. He says it may be decided to sparate the hull and fittings from the machinery in the advertisement. THE CRUISERS IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION

Referring to the construction of the steel crulsers and dispatch boat Dolphin, he says: "They constituted the first at-tempt of the Navy Department for many tempt of the Navy Department for many years to construct a war yessel up to the modern requirements. They should be looked upon and judged as such. As such they will, I trust, be found in the main creditable to those who have been engaged in their creation. They will certainly, if they have been well built, be an improvement upon the previous work of the department, but it is not profitable to consider them as standards of excellence for future work, nor was it to be expected that they would be.

"It is to be regretted (I think all will now accode to this suggestion) that greater de-

"it is to be regretted (I think all will now accrde to this suggestion) that greater deliteration was not had over the preparation of the plans. The Dolphin, as she now is, should be regarded as a pleasure boat rather than as a dispatch boat."

He believed the participation of the officers of the department in connection with the difficulty with Mr. Roach had been in good faith, and with no expectation that the interests of the government would be imperiled thereby.

He says that if the Dolphin proves well built in regard to her strength, the other

He says that if the Dolphin proves well built in regard to her strength, the other matters of dispute, he thinks, can be settled by sgreement or arbitration out of court, and of the cruisers and Dolphin he says: "Under the present circumstances all that the government can do from a business point of view is to complete them."

He recommends that some action be taken to facilitate promotion in the navy.

He calls attention to the fact of the exchange of national courtesies and hospitalities by naval officers often entailing burdens upon officers of small means, and says: "It may well be considered by Congress whether a small sum may not judiciously be allowed annually for this purpose, to be accounted for under direction of the Secretary. From \$3,000 to \$5,000 would probably be in excess of the annual amount to be required."

Upon the organization of the Navy Department be says it must be evident that there is something radically wrong, and after giving the history of the present bureau system says that the natural division of the work of the department

reau system says that the natural division of the work of the department is into three branches: First, the department having to do with the personnel and the fleet; second, the department of material and construction; third, the department of finance and accounts. This would tend to locate responsibility in the inspection and purchase of goods.

CONTRACTS VS. OPEN FURCHASES.

He speaks of the necessity of the contract system, and gives figures to show the disadvantage of open purchases by each of the eight bureaus separately, thus dividing responsibility. He says: "In view of the defective system under which the Navy Department has been allowed to drift during the last twenty years, I was not greatly surprised to discover that the stock on hand falls to agree with the amounts shown by the books of the department. In some cases it is largely in excess, in others there

"Seeing the ill-advised and inconsiderate manner in which important steps are necessarily taken by me under the present system, I feel certain that a similar record of mismanagement, of wasteful expediture of injudicious and ill-advised disposition of public moneys might be made by any Secretary under the present system. Nor can it public moneys might be made by any Secretary under the present system. Nor can I undertake, with the hope of any substantial success, to prevent entirely the mismanagement which has so long been the reproach of this department. * * * My brief experience in this department has satisfied me that whatever changes in its organization may be desired, it is of first necessity to separate, as much as practicable, the work of direction and deliberation from the details of exeution.

The PROPOSED REGRANIZATION.

"The system of organization indicated

the iron and steel will be a great factor in the problem. By the use of the gas instead of other fuel the work can be done much cheaper, and the uniformity of the heat secures a better quality of steel. Several steel manufacturers have declared that they can do the work for what it can be done in England, plus the difference in the rates of wages. The committee will probably recommend an appropriation of several hundred thousand dollars, with authority to make a continuous contract for heavy ordnance upon the best terms possible. A meeting was held by the committee yesterday. Secretary Endicott watched the President shake hands with nearly 200 people yesterday, and was much interested in the spec tacle. The President shook hands with about twenty-five people every minute, and was soon back at work. He has completed revising his message, and it is all ready to be given out. His callers yesterday in-cluded Senators Harris, Voorhe's Berry, cluded Senators Harris, Voorhe's Berry, Jones, Ark. Payne, Gorman, and Rinson: Representatives Burns, Curtin, Swope, Rog-ers, McRea, Lefevre, Morrison, McMillan, with Judge Goodenher, of Tenn.; Holman, Ryan, Cabnon, Romeis, Lanham, Randall, Eimentrout, Bragg, Dowdney, Felton, Cal., Dorsey, Neb.; Taulbee, J. M. Taylor, Jones, Henley, Townshend, Sowden, Scott, Tucker, and Halsell.

Night Schools for the District. The superintendent of the colored schools as arranged to open the night schools for colored boys at the Sumper school building n Monday evening next at 7:30 o'clock Two evenings of each week, Monday and Wednisday, will be devoted to the classiss for men and boys. The night schools for women and girls will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the same hour and place. The arrangements for opening classes in the Franklin school building are not yet completed. The superintendent will give notice as soon as the necessary alterations are completed in the rooms to be used for this purpose. THE PUBLIC LAND SYSTEM.

The "Tribune" on Mr. Whitney's Re-Commissioner Sparks' Sweeping Charges port .- Mayor Grace and the Grand

In beginning his annual report of the op-erations of the land office, up to June 20, 1885, Commissioner Sparks indulges in an exhibition of rhetoric directed against the New York, Dec. 5, 2 a. m.—The following will appear in the New York Tribume to-day upon "Secretary]Whitney's Report:"
Fecreary Whitney's report has been heralded in advance by the Jennocratic press at a conservative document. So it is. It is a cautious, wary, and appetencie as the license depression of spirits. There are no starting amprises in the surface of miny kind. To Secretary evidently as a cautious wary, and appetencie as a ladicate depression of spirits. There are no starting amprises in the source of nits mentice the sensible conclusion that he has made enough mistakes in the source of nits mentice to rather heart evidently as a sensible conclusion that he has made enough mistakes in the fource of nits mentice to make the heart of the deemined to retrieve his dissisters by a conservative course, by a diligent we of future opportunitive, and by carefully centellating his critics in and out of the department. The account which the secretary gives of his retalations with Mr. Roach is, of course, an adroit defense of his own extraordinary question for political capitat on behalf of the department, and behalf of the new administration. It is a skillad recital, in which he ostenizations was a surface of his citief client, in fertunately the chief offunder—himself. But when this ingenious story of his diastrous in atmatise to and dispraceful political persentions in annals of American history is frankly admitted. The outcome of his persistent attempts to cast discredit upon the advisory load, to impeach the methods of his persistent attempts to cast discredit upon the advisory load, to impeach the methods of his presidence, and to right developing the following his high contractors and the source of the Dolphin, there are two important admissions in the Secretary's report which we cannot pass over a silence. The first is the statement that if a ship be designed by the government the contractor can be held responsible for contractor and the first is the statement that if a ship be designed for the secretary a exhibition of rhetoric directed against the frauds which, to the commissioner's mind, have hitherto characterized the management of the land office and the issue of land natents. Here is the tribute the commissioner pays the former administration: "The vast machinery of the land department appears to have been devoted to the chief result of conveying the title of the United States to public lands upon fraudulent entries under strained constructions of imperfect public land laws and upon filegal claims under public and private grants."

The sales, entries, and selection of public lands, under various acts of Congress, embrace 20,113,663.37 acres and 881,830.21 asres of Indian lands, making a total of 90,003,513.58. The receipts from the sale of public lands were 27,080,114.80 and from indian lands \$603 483.92, a total of 88,638,420.18.

The commissioner next indulges in

indian lands seed scales, a total or colors, 420.18.

The commissioner next indulges in a dissertation upon the general features of public land administration, and remarks incidentally that condonement of irregularities had come to be regarded as a part of the official duty of the former supervising and accounting officers of the government. After a long argument to support this, the commissioner says that he found "this office a mer instrumentality in the hands of 'surveying rings." It shall not be such during the present incumbency."

He recommends the repeal of the law restricting the use of certificates of deposit to the land district, the lands for the surveying of which the deposit is made are situated in, also the passage of an act making false and fraudulent returns of public surveys, and of surveys of private land claims, offenses punishable by fines and imprisonment. He discusses the railway land grants at length, and quotes reports and opinions to show the fraud existing by the railways taking up grants without legal rights.

The number of acres granted to railway companies during the year was \$1,154,469.42. He urges legislative action and correction of the Pacific railway are of 1864. A better method of collecting aurveying costs chargeable to land grant railway companies is necessary, and he recommends a modification of the law so as to provide in lieu of withholding patents for a certification by the secretary of the Treasury, and directing the latter to charge such sums against the accounts of companies for public transportation. He also recommends the repeal of the secretary of the recomme

The Metropolitan Base Ball Club franchise was sold yesterday to Erastus Wiman for \$25,000. He will repair the ground of old Staten Island Cricket Club, at New Brighton, where he lives, and the club will play there with the American Association clubs next seems. gated.
Although a violation of the law, pre-Although a violation of the law, preemption and commuted homestead entries
are almost invariably sold, and as a remedy
he recommends that a law be passed authorizing the commissioner to appoint
agents to take testimouy under oath, and
that an adequate appropriation be made to
carry it into effect. Heauggests that if the
public lands are to be kept for actual inhabitancy the commutation feature should
be abolished.

The repeal of the timber culture law and
the desert land act is urged, and the modi-Mayor Grace was called before the federal grand jury this morning. He was in the presence of that angust body a total period of forty minutes. Speaking of it afterward the mayor said: "I was invited by note to appear before the grand jury this morning, and went. I was asked whether I had any voluntary statement to make regarding my business transactions with the firm of Grant & Ward. I embraced the opportunity to make a statement, the nature of which it would be improper for me to divulge. That's all there was of it." Mayor Grace was called before the federal

The repeal of the timber culture law and the desert land act is urged, and the modification of the act relating to relinquished military reservations. The law in relation to final proofs in homestead cases and final affidavits should be amended. He recommends the abolishment of the free system for entry of public lands, and the substitution of fixed salaries to registrars, and recommends a similar provision in respect to fees received at the general iand office for furnishing abstracts from the records.

The report concludes with a suggestion that wise and speedy measures should be adopted for the preservation of forests.

THE IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE.

leaving the matter to the finance committee. A Successful Meeting - Thanks Tendered to the "National Republican." The office of stenographer of the senate A regular meeting of the Healy branch of the National League was held at the Cir-cle House, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Twenty-third street, last evening. A report from the auditor shows that 114 wounded ex-confederate soldlers have ap-plied for aid and did not get it last year for and Twenty-third street, last evening.
Peter McCartney presided; John H. O'Brien
secretary. The meeting was large and enthusiastic, and more than fifty new members were added to the lists. Contributions
and membership fees to a large amount
were received and reported by the treasurer.
Mr. O'Connell, from the committee of
arrangements for the lecture of Hon. A. M.
Keiley, reported that all the arrangements
had been completed; that the lecture
would be delivered on Sanday evening, the
20th instant, at Ford's Opera House, and
that the subject would be "Irish Nationality." Large numbers of the tickets for the plied for aid and did not get it last year for want of funds,
A number of bills were introduced, and referred, one to pay annually to the confederate soldiers' home, in this city, \$10,000, and to pay a judgment against the state in favor of the Kendall Bark Note Company amounting to nearly \$30,000. Senate committees were announced, and resolution of respect to the memory of the late Vice President Hendricks was adopted, and as a further mark of feeling adjourned until Monday next.

that the subject would be "Irish Nationality." Large numbers of the tickets for the lecture were distributed, and a resolution was adopted inviting the Ladles' Land League of Washington to co-operate with the Healy League in their efforts to render the occasion a financial success. The thanks of the association were returned to Mr. O'Donnell for the use of the hall. Mr. P. W. Walsh offered the following resolution:

friends at dinner. After partaking of game soup three of the party became suddenly ill and a physician was called, who ex-pressed the bellef that the meat in the soup might have been putrid. A subsequent analysis, however, showed that the soup contained a sufficient constitute of available. tion:
Resolved, That the thanks of the Healy branch of the National League and of the Irish people be returned to the National Resultinan for the generous sympathy it has ever extended to the cause of Irish liberty.

The motion was seconded by Messrs.
Smith, Keogh, and O'Connell in feeling and alcount remarks and was cause.

partook of the soup are also dangerously ill Smith, Keegh, and O'Connell in feeling and eloquent remarks, and was unanmously adopted. Capt. W. D. O'Toole was invited to address the meeting, and made spirited and stirring comments upon the passing events in Ireland. Messrs. Keogh, Walsh, and O'Connell made eloquent speeches, and the meeting adjourned, the large and enthusiastic audience gratified with the liberal contributions received for the Paraell fund, and rejoiced at the encouraging news received from their suffering and struggling country. and all the city councils controlled by the French-Canadian conservatives are boycott-ing La Minerve and the French press that support or defend the cabinet in the execu-tion of Riel. BEAVER, Pa., Dec. 14 .- About 1 o'clock this moraing seventeen of the prisoners in the Beaver county jail sawed their way into the jail yard, scaled the wall, and escape I.

Gen. Hazen's Report Mutilated. The amended copy of Gen. Hazen's annual report, differing from that originally submitted to the Secretary of War, is creating considerable comment. In his original report the chief signal officer quotes at length from the report of Lieut. Greely, and then criticises severely the course pursued by Lieut. Garlington on the Proteus expedition, while in the amended report the criticisms are omitted. It is understood that the amended report will be regarded as the official report. Gen. Hazen yesterday said that Lieut. Garlington being no longer connected with the signal service, it was only proper that the matter referred to should be omitted. The real reason, it is learned, is that the Secretary of War intimated that the objectionable portion should be culled from it. considerable comment. In his original re-

Litigating Over St. Louis Land. David D. Cummins, to the use of Jos. S. Dobyns, has entered at law suit against Stew-Dobyns, has entered at law suit against Stewart Van Vliet, to recover \$16,311.49. It is claimed that the defendant, by his general warranty deed of Dec. 23, 1881, conveyed to the plaintiff eertain real estate in St. Louis for \$22,500, but it is charged that the defendant at the time of the execution of the deed was not seized of any estate in the land, but at the time the title was rested in the state of Missouri for use of township schools, and that the title of the defendant was wholly void. In order to make it marketable, and to prevent an ouster for the land, the plaintiff was compelled to buy up the adverse superior title, pelled to buy up the aiverse superior title, for which he paid the sum that he sues to recover under breach of covenants of seizing and of warranty

To Expedite Land Patents. To expedite the issuance of patents s long delayed by the operation of his circular of April 3, 1885, Commissioner Sparks has appointed a special examining board. It consists of the three officials next to the commissioner, and without question they are the busiest men in the office, the demands upon their time increasing every day mands upon their time increasing every day by reason of the approaching session of Congress. Two of these, the assistant com-missioner and chief clerk, appointed to their respective offices but a few months ago, must of necessity lack that practical knowledge of the requirements of the laws they are to administer without which the fraud—that according to Commissioner Sparks taints all the entries they are to ex-terince—cannot be detected. amine-cannot be detected.

JUDGE ENDICOTT'S PORTFOLIO HISTORI-

How the Present Organization Was Originally Formed and Grew Into Its Existing Shape-The Men Who Now Rule the Nation's Armies.

Our military administrative affairs during the revolution were conducted by a board of war. This board, however, held little ower within itself, since its acts were often directed by resolutions of Congress. After independence was achieved, however, the Department of War was established, and Gen. Berjamin Lincoln was appointed to take charge of it. He was the first American Secretary of War. But after the ea tablishment of our government, under the federal constitution in 1798, Maj. Gen. Henry Knox, of Massachusetts, was made



GEN. HENRY KNOX. Secretary of the Department of War" by Gen. Washington, and consequently he properly considered the first Secretary. For properly considered the first Secretary. For some time previous to this Gen. Knox had been acting in that capacity, and his ap-pointment by Gen. Washington was simply a reappointment under the new regime. Singularly enough, our congressional fore-fathers considered the establishment of a Department of War several weeks before a Department of war several weeks before a Treasury Department was discussed at all. The Department of War as originally formed not only embraced all matters pertaining to the military service, but controlled our ships and shipping. Indian affairs, bounty land grants, pensions, and various other matters. Practically it was



SECRETARY ENDICOTT. War, Navy, and Interior Departments com-bined. One of Gen. Knox's first official acts was the preparation of a plan for the establishment of "an uniform militia

bined. One of Gen. Knox's first official acts was the preparation of a plan for the establishment of "an uniform militia throughout the United States." This plan, which was gotten up on a most elaborate scale, was considered by Congress as entirely too rigid in its requirements to meet with approval by the people, and it was rejected. Quite a conflict of authority occurred about this time between Alexander Hamilton, then Secretary of the Treasury, and the War Department regarding the purchase of military supplies and stores. The latter contended that all such expenditures properly came under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, But this plan soon proved so utterly impractical that Congress took the matter in hand, and gave the Department of War exclusive jurisdiction over all expenditures for the military and naval service.

The imprisonment of a number of American citizens by the Algerines in 1794 was a forcible reminder to our government that we needed a navy, and Congress by act of March 27, of that year, authorized the construction or purchase of six frigates of war, or their equivalent in ships that could be rendered fit for war purposes. The result was the construction of our first navy under the Department of War. Six frigates were built, namely, "Constitution," "President," United States," "Chesapeake," "Constellation," and "Congress," carrying in all 246 guns. Gradually, however, all matters not strictly military were eliminated from the Department of War, and, though enlarged and improved as required by the growth of the country, the War Department proper has never been radically changed since its original formation. A comparative idea of the growth of this department proper has never been radically changed since its original formation. A comparative idea of the growth of this department may be had by taking the relative amount of money required to run it even as late as 1805, and that estimated necessary for the last fiscal year. In 1805 the amount expended was something 188, 5940,000, and in



OLD WAR DEPARTMENT.

The first building occupied by the War repartment after the removal of the seat of vernment to Washington was situate Pennsylvania avenue, between Twenty on Pennsylvania avenue, between Twentyfirst and Twenty-second streets, and was
considered at that time a handsome building. It was owned by Joseph Hodgson.
It was destroyed by fire, together with the
archives of the office, in 1801. The next
building occupied is one that will be remembered by any soldier who viatted Washington during the rebellion, and which was
only razed to the ground in 1879. It stood
on the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and
Seventeenth street, the the ground now
occupied by the War Department wing of
the new department building, and when
erected was looked upon as a marvel of

architectural beauty. But its accient walls, crowded with historic associations of the cloudy days of the republic, gave way at last before the march of improvement, and to-day there rises in its stead a structure which, for symmetrical form and majestic



GEN, SHERIDAN beauty, is not surpassed by the architectural efforts of this or any other country, a building that will be a pride to every citizen of the country until its granite walls crum-ble into dust.

THE HOUSE OFFICERS. The People Who Want Them, and Who Will be Successful.

The caucus to be held to-day by the Dem cratic members of the House will settle the question as to the new officers. Mr. Carlisle will, of course, be chosen speaker, and will probably be nominated by Mr. Randall; this settled, the other nominations Randall; this settled, the other nominations will be made. The patronage at the disposal of the speaker feonsists of a private scere tary and two cierks, whose aggregate salaries foot up \$4,800. Rev. J. S. Lindsay, pastor of St. John's Church in Georgetown, and Rev. Dr. Pitzer are mentioned for chaplain. Gen. John B. Clarke, the present cierk of the House, will be rejected. The patronage of the cierk is worth \$64,000, including his own salary of \$5,100. There will be a contest for the position of sergeant-at-arms, but Mr. Leadom, the present incumbent, will be successful, as the Ohio delegation have decided on him. The other applicants are C. B. Button, of Connecticut; W. W. Armstrong, of Ohio, and a Mr. Wheaton, of Michigan. The friends of Mr. Leedom ciaim a large majority for him and think that he will "win in a walk," as one of them aptly puts it. The ity for him and think that he will "win In a walk," as one of them aptiy puts it. The sergeant-at-arms gets \$4,500 per year and has patronage worth \$16,000. For the door-keepership, the salary of which is \$3,000, and has patronage worth \$60,000, there are half a dozen candidates, including Col. Sam Bonelson, of Tennessee; J. P. Trainer, of New York; J. B. Colt, of Connecticut, and Col. Nat Tyler, of Virginia. Col. Donelson will probably be elected, and his friends claimed last night that he had 147 votes already pledged. The postmaster of the House gets \$2,500, and Lycurgus Dalten, the incumbent, is the only candidate. These nominations will probably be made unanimous, and they will be the next officers. The Republican members will hold a canous at the House this evening, and decide upon a plan of action. A meeting of New York representatives was held at the Biggs House instably, and Col. Trainor was indorsed.

A Forecast of the Course to be Fol-

lowed-Other Matters. There is a movement on foot among the more conservative Democratic and Republican members of the House to effect a compromise in the matter of changing the rules. The plan they have in view is to let the appropriations committee have charge of the appropriation bills and prevent of the appropriation bills and prevent riders being carried through the House on them, or to take from the appropria-tions committee the power to recommend legislation on the bills. This plan is gain-ing favor, and will receive the support of the Republican members.

There seems to be little doubt among the members of Congress now here but that the silver question will receive careful consider-ation at the coming session. The action

tion at the coming session. The action members, who are said to be in the ma-jority, will be guided by the President's recentitled during the early part of the session. settled during the early part of the session, there will be a good chance for silver legislation, and it is pretty well understood among members that turiff legislation will depend to a great extent upon the settlement of the silver problem.

About forty members of the House are said to have signified their attention of voting for a resolution in favor of changing the rules, to be presented at the caucus to-night.

CIVIL SERVICE CHANGES.

The President yesterday made the following appointments: James W. Porch, of Missouri, to be consul general of the United States at Mexico, vice E. B. Ewing, of Missouri, resigned on account of ill-health. Postmasters—Andrew W. Smith, Flushing, N. Y.; H. C. Evans, Bloomfield, Iowa; N. A. Wade, Butler, Mo., and J. B. Shaler, McKecsport, Pa. Henry I. Kent, to be naval officer of customs at Boston and Charleatown, Mass. Nathantel Newburgh,

naval officer of customs at Boston and Charlestown, Mass. Nathantel Newburgh, to be appraiser of merchandise, Cincinnati, Ohio. Thomas J. Hamilton, of Washington territory, to be United States marshal for the territory of Washington.

Van V. Richardson bas also been appointed United States marshal for the eastern district of North Carolina; William J. Tinnin, surveyor of customs at San Francisco, Cal.; James E. Tucker, assisistant appraiser of merchandise at San Francisco, The commissions of the following Maryland poatmasters will expire before September, 1886; Henry Johnson, postmaster at Cumberland, whose salary is \$2,800 per year, March 7; Emory Shreve, at Easton, salary \$1,600, Dec. 20; Palmer C. Strickland, at Elkton, salary \$1,500, Dec. 15; J. G. Kirkwood, at Ellicott City, salary \$1,200, May 4; J. P. Owens, at Salisbury, salary \$1,400, March 17, and A. Ii, Huber, salary \$1,500, Feb. 6. In Virginia: Josephine Hopkins, at Glen Allen, Henrico county, whose salary is \$1,300, May 1, and Stith Bowling, Petersburg, Dinwiddie county, whose salary is \$1,500, March 31.

Robert Collyer's Lecture. Rev. Robert Collyer, of New York, will deliver a lecture at All Souls' Church next Mondey evening on Father Taylor, the noted Methodist sailor prescher of Boston. Dr. Collyer is one of the most popular lec-turers in the country, and the subject is one suited to his humor and eloquence. Arrested on a Train.

Howard Zance, a colored boy, last night tole (10, a pistol, and a silver watch chain from Mrs. E. Thompson, living at the cor-ner of Four-and a half street and Maryland avenue. The boy was arrested white on a train at the Baltimore and Potomae depot. Special Agents' Work.

The report of the supervising special igent, Louis G. Martin, to the Secretary of he Treasury for the fiscal year ended June 0, 1885, shows that through the efforts of the special agents there have been paid into the treasury \$530,318,

The Weather.

For Washington and vicinity-Rain and snow, followed by much colder weather, with

Thermometric readings-3 a. m., 32.23; 7 a m., 81.5°; 11 s. m., 41.5°; 3 p. m., 43.2°; 7 p. m., 41.5°; 10 p. m., 44.7°; 11 p. m., 44.7°. Mean temperature, 45.5°; maximum, 45.7°; mini-mum, 81.2°; mean relative humidity, 65°

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

GLADSTONE LEADING IN THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

The Servians Satisfied to Obtain an Honorable Peace-An Earthquake in Alceria-Mr. Parnell Not Coming to

Loxnon, Dec. 4 .- In Govan, Scotland, Mr. Pearce, conservative, has defeated Mr.

Eurleigh, liberal.

The latest returns show the election of 285 liberals, 295 tories, and 58 Parnelitess giving Gladstone two majority over all. The heavest county polling of the whole deciion will take place to-morrow and will

finally decide the relative position of the parties. The liberals are opposed to Mr. Gladstone resuming office unless they have a clear majority over nationalists and conservatives combined.

ALCHERS, Dec. 4.—An earthquake has thrown down many houses at Mascard, Biddah, and Medcah, and destroyed three-quarters of the town of Malla. Thirty-two persons were killed and twelve persons were figured. Among the victims are several Europeans. NOTHER CONFERENCE OF THE POWERS.

PARIS, Dec. 4.—The Journal des Debats says that is proposed to hold a conference of the powers at Berlin to delimit the Servo-Bulgarian frontler. SERVIA WANTS RONGRABLE PRACE.

SERVIA WANTS RONORABLE PRACE.

Belghade, Dec. 4.—The Bulgarian defenses at Pirot, extending five miles on the Bela Palanka road, now equal those at Silvoltza. The Servians at Widdin do not memore Sofia. King Milan has retired from the command of the army in favor of Cat. Horvatovich. The people are clamoring for war in order to regain their prestige, but King Milan is doubtful of the success of the Servian arms in case hostilities conof the Servian arms in case hostilities con-

of the Servian states in case hostilities continue.

Prince Alexander demands an indemnity of 42,000,000 frames, which the Servian government refuses to pay, hoping that Austria's support of Servia will compel Alexander to make peace. The semi-official paper, Videlo, says that Servia will be content with an honorable peace.

RUSTGRUK, Dec. 4.—Meetings are held throughout eastern Roumelia to protest against the reatoration of the status quo mate.

PARNELL NOT COMING

PARSELI. NOT COMING.
LONDON, IPCC. 5.—The Post says that, in view of possible political compileations even before the meeting of paritament, Mr. Parnell will probably not visit. America for FOR THE SOUL OF KING ALPONSO,

PARIS, Dec. 4.—A mass for the repose of the soul of King Alfonso was celebrated in the Xavier Church to-day. Among those who attended were the attaches of the Spanish embassy, many Orleanists, and a number of deputies. The Spanish embassy has arranged for a requiem mass at the Madeleine Church on Thursday next.

NARDELLO ACCUSES A WITNESS. He Stops the Trial to Denounce an Alleged Accomplice.

In the Nardello case yesterday, in the criminal court, Francesco Foriacchi testi-fied that he knew Rotunno by sight, but fied that he knew Rotunno by sight, but could not recognize the body. Pasquale Gesimente swore that he, Rotunno, and others were room-mates. Nardello occupied an adjoining room. He never saw Nardello have money or knew him to do a week's work. Nardello shaved himself with his own razor. He saw Nardello at Usudio's house the last day Rotunno was there. The men left there at 5:30 o'clock in the evening, and later Rotunno came back alone, leaving the house again an heur and a half before daylight, saying that he was going to see Nardello because he had premised him work. Salvatore Scura testified that he saw Nardello at 5 o'clock on the morning of July 25. Nardello's hands were all right. At police court that morning he saw Nardello's heart their was a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw Nardello's heart their was presented as a series of the saw nardello as a series

At police court that morning he saw Nardello's hand tied up. He told witness that he cut his inger with a knife while enting wood. Nardello bought witness's watch for £4, and Nardello got a \$50 bill changed in order to pay for it. Nardello had more money.

ad more money.

Luigi Marino corroborated Scura's testimony. Gesimonte was recalled and cross-exammed through another interpreter. He tes-tified that Rotunno went out with Nardelin about 5:30 p. m., and returned two hours later. At 1:30 a. m. Rotunno again went to call Nardello to go to work. Rotunno had no work during July. Witness here tilen-tified a pair of light-colored pants as be-couging to Nardello, but did not know the

lark pair.
Nardello, who was watching the witness Nardello, who was watching the witness-ciosely, suddenly broke out in Italian, say-ing to the witness: "You are a list. Those are your pants. You and Pasquale Ab-bondante did the murder."

Witness auswered: "You rascal, you tried to get me into it."

Nardello burst into tears, and was re-moved to the balliff's room until he re-gained his composure. He was again brought into court, and the trial proceeded. Without concluding the examination of the witness, the trial was adjourned well to

Without concluding the examination of the witness, the trial was adjourned until to-

The large audience at the Tabernacle last night amused themselves before the lecture begun in deciphering the pictures of hideous gods and goddesses that hung upon the wall in front of them, and closely examined the array of strange things that were upon the platform. While so occupied, a small door opened and out came a dark face and a form wrapped up in the costume of an Oriental. San-ah-brah, the Burmese lecturer, was before them. With a pleasant voice that could be heard throughout the auditorium, for two bours and a half he talked of India; not pedantically, but in a conversational manner, suiting his actions to his words. One moment his voice would speak of the sorrows of his people and in the next of their joys, and in like manner he moved his audicace at will to tears, to laughter, to sorrow, or to joy. He spoke only or home life, the manners, the customs, the lauguage, the rites and ceremonics of his people. As he spoke of different things he showed specimens to illustrate more forcibly his words. The audience were highly pleased, and marked their appreciation by frequent applause. in front of them, and closely examined the tion by frequent applause.

Complaint was recently made to the Secretary of the Treasury of the action of the collector of customs at New York in refuscollector of customs at New York in refus-ing to give information to newspaper men and other interested persons regarding de-cisions made by the department in customs cases. The Secretary has addressed a let-ter to the collector, in which he says there is no good reason why such rulings should not be promptly furnished for publication,

The California Contests. The protest against the admission of the California delegation will probably be rejected when presented, as it is not of suffi-cient weight to involve the legality of the election of the members. Mr. Henley, who is charged with being a citizen of Mexico, will call up the charge after the House opens in order to exonerate himself.

The Democratic Senatorial Caucus. Seintor Beck, chairman of the Demo-eratic caucus of senators, has issued a call for a conference to take place at 12 o'clock to-day in the conference committee room of the Senate. The chief purpose of the meet-ing is to nominate a Democratic candidate for the temporary presidency of the Senate,

Representative Long last night express 1 his intention of declining to allow his number to be used in the Republican House cascas